

HOW MUCH LONGER WILL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE TO WAIT FOR AIRLINE SECURITY?

September 11, 2001 – Terrorists hijacked 4 U.S. airplanes, using them as weapons to strike at both the World Trade Center and Pentagon, killing more than 5,000 people and injuring thousands of others.

September 21, 2001 – Congress enacts the Airline Stabilization Act, with no security measures, after GOP negotiators reject Democratic request to include air safety measures in the bill.

October 11, 2001 – The Senate passed a strong bipartisan bill by 100 to 0 to require federal law enforcers at airports to screen airline passengers and baggage.

November 1, 2001 – The House of Representatives, in a sop to special interests, narrowly passed a weakened and partisan airline bill that leaves in place the status quo -- after three weeks of arm-twisting by Majority Whip Tom DeLay and private screening contracting companies that would lose millions under Senate-passed bill.

As of Thursday, November 8:

It has been **58 days** since the September 11th tragedy.

It has been **28 days** since the Senate passed a strong bipartisan bill 100 to nothing that will restore Americans' faith in flying by putting federal law enforcement in charge of airline security.

It has been **7 days** since the House passed a much weaker aviation security bill, which will make the American people wait even longer as differences between the two measures get worked out.

Harm Caused by Delay of Airline Security Bill

Since September 11th

- Some 150,000 airline workers (pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, reservation clerks, baggage handlers, airport cleaners, and aircraft manufacturing) have lost their jobs or will shortly due to announced airline cutbacks.

- Some 117,813 flights have been dropped (as of October 31, compared to last year).
- Nearly 20 million **fewer** passengers have boarded flights (as of October 31, as compared to last year).

Everyday that Republicans continue to drag out the conference:

- One million passengers get on planes, without the security of knowing the federal government is in charge of airline safety.
- Another 367,000 travelers abandon the airways (as compared to last year), as the public waits for the federal government to begin the process of restoring confidence in the airline industry through enactment of a new aviation safety law.
- Only about 9,000 flights take off – 20% fewer flights than last year – while action on airline security is grounded by House Republicans in Congress.
- The economy sags even further and unemployment numbers surge as layoffs of thousands of airline workers and others in tourism-related industries are announced.

Selected Air Safety Breaches Since Senate Passage of Aviation Security Bill

- **London/Orlando, Florida:** Four men were arrested at Gatwick Airport after a small arsenal of weapons, including knives and a stun gun, was allegedly found in luggage after a flight from Florida. The men arrived on an American Trans Air flight from Orlando on Saturday, and were arrested after Customs inspectors found two knives, five knuckle-dusters, Mace spray and a stun gun, in luggage that had been in the hold of the flight. (*AP*, 11/6/01)
- **Chicago's O'Hare International Airport:** A man who had seven knives, a stun gun and a can of pepper spray in a duffel bag passed through a security checkpoint at O'Hare International Airport. Screeners cleared the man into the terminal after he admitted carrying two other pocket knives, which were taken from him. Argenbright Security, the contractor for United Airlines, said it believed employees acted properly, but it still suspended eight workers. Last year, Argenbright agreed to pay \$1.5 million in fines for hiring felons and other violations. (*USA Today*, 11/6/01)
- **Eight Airport Evacuations in last Five Days:** Since Thursday [November 1], the Federal Aviation Administration has evacuated passengers from eight airport terminals after reports of security problems. The cases occurred in Manchester, N.H.; Hartford, Conn.; Indianapolis; Philadelphia; Baltimore; Dallas-Fort Worth; and New York's Kennedy and LaGuardia airports. In at least 16 other cases, passengers were rechecked for similar problems. (*USA Today*, 11/6/01) At New York's Kennedy International Airport, for example, federal authorities Thursday [November 1] ordered a terminal evacuated after determining a private security firm was not screening passengers correctly. (*Washington Post*, 11/3/01)

- **Grand Rapids, Michigan:** A local television reporter “accidentally” carries a Swiss Army Knife aboard a plane heading for Detroit. The reporter allegedly carried scissors in the same bag as the knife. The scissors were discovered yet the knife was carried on. (*Grand Rapids Press*, 11/2/01)
- **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:** A man was able to pass through the first of two security checkpoints with a utility knife. A customer service representative while performing a random check of his computer case discovered the knife. (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 10/30/01)
- **New Orleans, Louisiana:** On Tuesday, October 23, a 68-year-old man traveling from New Orleans to Phoenix unknowingly carried a loaded gun in his briefcase through a security checkpoint X-ray machine at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport without setting off alarms. Midway to Phoenix, the man opened the briefcase and found the gun, an old derringer that had been given to him by his father. (*Washington Post*, 10/25/01)
- **South Bend, Indiana:** Jim Baccus realized he carried a pocket- knife onto an ATA flight from South Bend to Dallas. Days later Darrell Bice, security manager for International Total Services, carried Mr. Baccus’s bag through another security checkpoint. Yet again the bag makes it through security. (*Knight-Ridder News*, 10/21/01)
- **Tampa, Florida:** A foreign correspondent had a pair of tweezers and sharp scissors confiscated from her luggage at London’s Heathrow Airport. Days earlier the same bag went unchecked at the Tampa International Airport. (*St. Petersburg Times*, 10/21/01)
- **Washington, DC:** On October 13, agents from the Transportation Department arrested a man who walked through a security checkpoint with a concealed pocketknife at Dulles airport in Washington DC. (*Washington Post*, 10/17/01)
- **Portland, Oregon:** A traveler accidentally carried a knife onboard a St. Louis flight. The traveler later told the press that she “breezed though security.”(*Knight-Ridder Tribune Business News*, 10/12/01)